The nuclear sword of Democles looms heavier over our world each and every day. Yet, a mental block shields the thought of ultimate destruction as we Americans concern ourselves with more important drivel such as, "Who shot J.R. ?" and "Who will be Charlie's next Angel?" Few, old enough to remember, dare recall the gut wrenching tension of the Cuban Missile Crisis which the entire world was forced to witness. The terror of those hours of nuclear confrontation and near Armageddon, persuaded the leaders of the Super Powers the necessity of Nuclear Disarmament. Subsequently, the first step in that direction came no less than nine months later with the signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. But, the matriculation of new leadership and that monster called political expediency, have given us Detente and Strategic Arms Limitation agreements. The results being: the former is passe', and the latter is unverifiable.

But, now a wild card has been thrown into the Nuclear Arms game. The possibility that the international terrorist community may very well have "THE BOMB"!

And, just what would these terrorists do with such a bomb? Well, it doesn't take a peanut farmer to figure this one out. Why, they'd use it, that's what! A while back I read a (God forbid possible) scenario of this topic. It sketches a VW bus parking alongside the White House with a seemingly tourist couple exiting. Camera, sunglasses and all. They casually walk to the nearest subway for a ride to National Airport and a quick shuttle to New York for their overseas flight to Rome. Somewhere over the Atlantic, The Captain announces that Washington D.C. has been blown up...First reports are uncertain who in the Government may have survived: Further details unavailable!

Dramatic? You bet! Terrible? Frighteningly so! Possible? No, worse... PROBABLE.

To comprehend the magnitude of this event becoming reality, consider: The accountability of fissionable material by Uncle Sam is terribly suspect. What happened to that nuclear shipment bound for France in 1966? Did the CIA help Israel heist it? This is not to mention the hospitality of the USSR. Now, with material in hand, how to assemble? Well, we'll just check one of those recently published Princeton term papers on HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN.....whatever. The point being, if a 19 year old physics student can do it...so can Joe Terrorist! So, who delivers it? The first person coming to mind is Carlos, the Super Terrorist who is credited with, amid his dirty work, masterminding the Munich Olympic massacre, the kidnap/ransom of the eleven O.P.E.C. oil ministers and the Entebbe Skyjack. Several of his lieutenants, recently apprehended in Europe, spilt the beans on his intention of using one of the bombs at his disposal, on New York

or D.C. At his disposal??? Hell, it's a known fact that Quadafy of Lybia (Billy Carter's buddy) and other oil rich nations, have sought nuclear devices at any price. What a coup, for the communist-backed world terrorist circle to have our government nuked, or even blackmailed for any ultimate ransom? Oh, yes, access. Well, if marijuana can be flown in by the ton...what's a pound or two of Uranium-235? This, to paraphrase Lexington, would be the explosion felt round the world!

What type of results can we expect from all of this? Well, if the military command (I would assume the nuking of D.C. would be timed with as much of our government in session as conceivable, especially the EXECUTIVE BRANCH), could discern the nature and isolation of the explosion quickly enough, there would be no retaliation toward RUSSIA. But, let no Pentagon propaganda ever confuse the issue of selective nuclear use. One confirmed use of a device in a military action would probably lead to massive retaliation.

This is the very nature of BRINKMANSHIP. One cannot, by any means, be assured of the patience and keen perception necessary of the military command in a critically traumatic situation such as we are discussing. But, if they do perceive it at face value and avert a holocaust, that still leaves the U.S. under martial law and military rule, until such a time that national elections could be held. Moreover, there is no guarantee they would be held. Such a tragedy, would foment an unprecedented international power vacuum, and the entire world would be changed forever, and, calculably, not for the better.

The FOUNDING FATHERS, in their brilliant effort "to form a more perfect union", did not foresee the need to incorporate a method of total replacement of the representation under cataclysmic circumstances in the CONSTITUTION. This is understandable. The 24th Amendment, with its more definitive pronouncement of Executive Branch Succession, does not come to any terms with such a circumstance.

This problem is not as hopeless as perceived. And I do hope it is fully perceived!

Legislation by the Congress, regarding representative replacement/succession of our national government would not only guarantee the continued existence of our so cherished representative democracy, but, just as important, could be prohibitive of this tragedy as well! An amendment stipulating the governors of the states form a temporary government (all three branches), thus, preserving the constitutional ethic of elected official representation and constituting a legitimate government, is direly critical. This suggestion, including other state elected officials (state representatives, states attorneys, public defenders, etc...) should be coupled with provisions specifying who and how to assume what leadership positions, their respective tenure and, of course, the time limitations and guidelines for a new national election.

This type of legislation is the insurance Americans need in a modern and quickly changing world to assure the continuity of the democracy we work so hard to preserve and often die to protect. And although it does not physically prevent terrorist activity of this terrible nature, (and I doubt that the Intelligence Community can guarantee prevention of such activity, nor would they proclaim to be able to), it does, for all intents and purposes take the bite out of such tragedy and motivate these ugly people to seek alternative situations to wreak havoc.

This is the very life and breath of our country we are discussing. Nothing, can be more critical or important.

I consider the failure of Congressional action on this matter, in the past, irresponsible. I would consider the continued unwillingness of the Congress to provide such legislation, criminal. It is the individual duty of the American citizenry to prod their representation to action on this and other matters of importance.

It is time for responsibility and conscientiousness. It is time we asked ourselves just what type of society we really want to live in. The answer must be, a decent and respectable one that is responsible to its failures and concerned with its problems. And, most important, capable of the task of not just survival, but of success. Which is just what the idea of AMERICA is all about.

[redacted]